



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,436	07/16/2001	Toyomi Kotaki	101136-00021	8485

7590 09/20/2002
Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn
Suite 600
1050 Connecticut Avenue N W
Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

DAVIS, NATALIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1642	6

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/674,436	KOTAKI ET AL.
	Examiner Natalie A. Davis	Art Unit 1642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3 Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed has been considered. A signed copy is attached hereto.

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: non-D amino acid sequences with four or more amino acids, provided that there are at least 4 "specifically defined" amino acids embedded within the text of the disclosure must be referenced by sequence identifiers (SEQ ID NO:). The rules apply to all sequences in a given application, whether claimed or not. Correction is required. See MPEP § 2422.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required, are summarized in *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986). They include the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, the amount of direction or guidance disclosed in the specification, the presence or absence of working examples, the predictability or unpredictability of the art, the breadth of the claims, and the quantity of experimentation which would be required in order to practice the invention as claimed.

The nature of the invention is to a gene coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1. There are many amino acids which may comprise the sequences as claimed, which may or may not perform the same biological functions and the specification does not give any guidance to which molecules will exhibit the biological activities as claimed. Proteins encoded by nucleic acids that contain additional amino acids may or may not function as contemplated. One cannot extrapolate the teachings of the specification to the breadth of the claims because the claims are broadly drawn to any gene that encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 and applicant has not enabled all of these types of modifications because it has not been shown that these molecules are capable of functioning as that which is being disclosed. Likewise, proteins encoded by variant polynucleotides may or may not function as contemplated. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not know how to make or use the invention as claimed. Protein chemistry is probably one of the most unpredictable areas of biotechnology. For example, conservative replacement of a single "lysine" reside at position 118 of acidic fibroblast growth factor by "glutamic acid" led to the substantial loss of heparin binding, receptor binding and biological activity of the protein (Burgess et al., J of Cell Bio. 111:2129-2138, 1990). In transforming growth factor alpha, replacement of aspartic acid at position 47 with alanine or asparagine did not affect biological activity while replacement with serine or glutamic acid sharply reduced the biological activity of the mitogen (Lazar et al. Molecular and Cellular Biology 8:1247-1252, 1988). These references demonstrate that even a single amino acid substitution or what appears to be an inconsequential chemical modification will often dramatically affect the biological activity and characteristic of a protein. Furthermore, the specification fails to teach what deletions, truncations, substitutions and mutations of the disclosed sequence can be tolerated that will allow the protein to function as claimed. While it is known that many amino acid substitutions are possible in any given protein, the position within the protein's sequence where such amino acid substitutions can be made with reasonable expectation of success are limited. Certain positions in the sequence are critical to the three-dimensional structure/function relationship, and these regions can tolerate only conservative substitutions or no substitutions. Residues that are directly involved in protein functions such as binding will certainly be among the most conserved (Bowie et al. Science, 247:1306-1310, 1990, p. 1306, col.2). Reasonable correlation must exist between the breadth of the claims and

enablement set forth, and it cannot be predicted from the disclosure how to use any and all genes coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1. Therefore, in view of the lack of predictability of the prior art, the breadth of the claims and the absence of working examples, it would require undue experimentation for one skilled in the art to practice the invention as claimed.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected less than 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The instant specification does not contain a written description of the invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms or in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar (CA FC) 19 USPQ2d 1111 (6/7/1991) clearly states that "written description" of invention required by first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is separate and distinct from that paragraph's requirement of enabling disclosure, since description must do more than merely provide explanation of how to "make and use" invention; applicant must also convey, with reasonable clarity to those skilled in art, that applicant, as of filing date sought, was in possession of invention, with invention being, for purposes of "written description" inquiry, whatever is presently claimed. An applicant shows possession by describing the claimed invention with all its limitations using such descriptive means as words, structures, diagrams, and formulas. Also, description of an actual reduction to practice, or by showing the invention was "ready for patenting," or by describing distinguishing identifying characteristics sufficient to show that the applicant was in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.

The claims are drawn to a gene coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1. The specification does not reasonably provide written description for a gene coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1. The disclosure does not indicate that applicant had possession of a gene coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 with unknown sequence on either or both sides of SEQ ID NO: 1. The disclosure does not give sufficient descriptive information, such as definitive structural features, location of introns, exons, and open reading frames, chromosomal localization, or complete detailed description of the function of claimed invention indicating that the claimed gene was indeed isolated, produced, and assayed for the uses disclosed. Thus, one skilled in the art would not recognize from the disclosure that the applicant was in possession of the claimed gene.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Todaro, et al., (WO 95/13393, 1995) and Peasrse, et al., (WO 95/20661, 1995).

Todaro and Peasrse both teach a gene/ DNA encoding an amino acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 (see attached). Since the amino acid sequence of the prior art is identical to the instant invention, it would inherently possess the limitations as claimed.

5. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kubo, et al., (WO 94/03205, 1994).

Kubo teach a peptide capable of binding and inducing an immune response, which may be used in the prevention and treatment of cancer. The peptide comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 (see peptide 5.0044, page 105, table 23(c)) wherein the N-terminal Asp residue has been deleted. Since the amino acid sequence of the prior art is identical to the instant invention, it would inherently possess the limitations as claimed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie A. Davis whose telephone number is 703-308-6410. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:30 (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa PhD can be reached on 703-308-3995. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4315 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Natalie A. Davis, PhD
September 17, 2002

Natalie A. Davis